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Agenda item 12

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saint Lucia, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia: draft resolution

International co-operation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant

The General Assembly,

Expressing profound concern about the ongoing effects on people's lives and health of the disaster at Chernobyl which had serious national and international consequences of unprecedented scale,

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Especially concerned about the state of health of the children who suffered and continue to suffer from the effects of increased radiation as well as from possible long-term effects of radiation,

Taking into account the provisions of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for Implementing the Declaration in the 1990s, which, inter alia, refer to the need for concrete measures to be taken at the national and international levels for children in especially difficult circumstances, including victims of man-made disasters who have been exposed to radiation, 1/

Taking into account also the need to continue taking comprehensive measures to study, address and mitigate the consequences of the accident, especially measures to protect against radiation and to safeguard the health of the population, including as appropriate resettling the population in uncontaminated areas, improving the environment in the contaminated areas and preventing further possible transboundary radioactive effects,

Increasingly aware of the need to improve co-ordination of ongoing international efforts to study and minimize the radiological and other consequences of the disaster at Chernobyl,

Stressing the importance of public education and communication in addressing the concerns of the population of the contaminated areas regarding the effects of man-made radiation, including its long-term effects,

Recalling its resolution 44/224 of 22 December 1989, in which it, inter alia, recognized the need to strengthen international co-operation in rendering assistance in cases of environmental emergencies,

Noting with satisfaction Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/50 of 13 July 1990 on international co-operation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant,

Taking into account the efforts made by the United Nations and organizations of the United Nations system to study, mitigate and minimize the radiological, socio-economic and other consequences of the disaster at Chernobyl,

Welcoming the growing international solidarity with the victims of Chernobyl, especially children, as well as the willingness on the part of Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the business community, scientific bodies and individuals to increase medical, food and other humanitarian assistance for the rehabilitation of the affected population,

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1/ See A/45/625, annex.

Recognizing the particular importance of completing the international independent assessment of the radiological consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, co-ordinated by the International Atomic Energy Agency,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General 2/ and invites him, in the light of the findings contained in that report and other relevant reports and in consultation with the agencies concerned, to continue taking appropriate measures to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, in particular to support efforts made within the United Nations system by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and the Inter-Agency Committee for the Response to Nuclear Accidents to harmonize, strengthen and co-ordinate international projects dealing with mitigating the consequences of the disaster at Chernobyl and to consider, inter alia, opportunities to:

(a) Formulate a programme for co-ordinating the activities to be carried out by the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system involved in efforts to address and mitigate the consequences of the disaster at Chernobyl;

(b) Entrust one of the Under-Secretaries-General with the task of co-ordination;

(c) Set up a task force responsible for stimulating and monitoring the activities of the United Nations system in this field;

(d) Appeal for voluntary contributions to complement the regular budgetary resources used by United Nations organs and agencies for the implementation of activities aimed at mitigating the consequences of the disaster at Chernobyl;

2. Requests the organs, specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, in considering possible technical and other special assistance for the areas most affected, particularly in the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, to bear in mind the unprecedented nature of the radiological and environmental disaster and of the emergency situation in those areas resulting from the long-term effects of man-made radiation on present and future generations;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session an item entitled "International co-operation to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the disaster at Chernobyl";

2/ A/45/643.

5. Makes an urgent appeal to all States members of the international community, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the business community, scientific bodies and individuals to continue to provide all appropriate support and assistance to the areas most affected by the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, in full co-ordination and co-operation with envisaged or planned efforts of the United Nations system.